IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing metadata, the metadata comprising essence data and link data, wherein essence data comprises at least one of text, picture, video and audio data, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first metadata item from a metadata database, the first metadata item including first essence data and/or link data, wherein the link data directly or indirectly points to second essence data different from the first essence data;

transferring the first essence data and/or said second essence data–into third essence data, the third essence data being multimedia data not comprised in metadata wherein a data format of the third essence data is the same as said first essence data and/or said second essence data;

creating a new file outside the metadata database; and

storing the third essence data-into the new file.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of editing said first essence data and/or said second essence data under the control of a graphical user interface.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said second essence data is included in a second metadata item as essence data.

Claims 4-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A device for processing metadata, the metadata comprising essence data and link data, wherein essence data comprises at least one of text, picture, video and audio data, the device comprising

means for providing a first metadata item from a metadata database, the first metadata item including first essence data and/ link data, wherein the link data directly or indirectly points to second essence data different from the first essence data;

means for transferring the first essence data and/or said second essence data into third

essence data, the third essence data being multimedia data not comprised in metadata,

wherein a essence data format of said third essence data is the same as said first and/or

second essence data;

      means for creating a new file outside the metadata database; and

      means for storing the third essence data into the new file.

8. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, further comprising means

for editing said first metadata essence data and/or said second essence data under the control

of a graphical user interface.

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein said second

essence data is included in a second metadata item as essence data.

Claims 10-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A device for cleaning a metadata database comprising the

device for processing metadata as claimed in claim 7̲8̶, wherein the second essence data is

included in a second metadata item also stored in said metadata database, the device further

comprising means for deleting from the metadata database the first and/or the second

metadata item that was transferred to the third essence data outside the metadata database.

Claims 16-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said step of

transferring, both the first essence data and the second essence data are combined into said

third essence data.

Claims 19-20 (Cancelled)

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